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**Marine Fisheries Public Notice**  
**October 28, 2003**

**MARINEFISHERIES SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON  
PROJECT CRITERIA AND IDEAS TO ASSESS AND MITIGATE RESOURCE  
DAMAGE FROM THE HUBLINE GAS PIPELINE**

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The Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) is seeking comments from the public to help determine appropriate long-term assessment and mitigation programs in response to natural resource impacts attributable to the Massachusetts Bay HubLine gas pipeline installation activities.

Exceedence of specific Time-Of-Year (TOY) work windows recommended in the permitting process resulted in monetary compensation by Algonquin for environmental assessment and mitigation. *Marine Fisheries*, as the lead agency in receipt of these funds, will lead mitigation efforts in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs through a memorandum of agreement to ensure that the funds are used to effectively mitigate and/or restore aquatic resources and habitat. **Comments are sought on both project selection criteria and suggested ideas for projects:**

Project selection criteria. *Marine Fisheries* will eventually select projects based on their ability to match certain criteria that provide for appropriate mitigation and restoration for any short or long term impacts to aquatic resources and habitat that may be associated, directly or indirectly, with Algonquin's continuation of Project activities beyond TOY work window end dates of April 30, 2003 and May 31, 2003. Criteria therefore should address impacted marine resource(s), species, and/or habitat type and the basic hierarchy of mitigation/restoration preferences. Specifically, *Marine Fisheries* invites the public to make suggestions about candidate resources (e.g species) and project priorities (in-kind vs. out-of-kind and on-site vs. off-site). *Marine Fisheries* has drafted potential lists of both marine resources impacted from the HubLine Project and guidelines for prioritization of projects.

(a) Potential List of Marine Resources Impacted:

Anadromous fish runs	Atlantic Cod
American lobster	Blue Mussels
Eelgrass	Hard-bottom encrusting community
Ocean Quahog	Sea Scallop
Softshell clam	Soft-bottom benthic infaunal community
Surf clam	Winter flounder
Yellowtail Flounder	

(b) Potential Guidelines for Prioritization of Projects: Prioritization of projects on the basis of geographical and resource focus should be undertaken according to the following basic hierarchy of mitigation/restoration preferences:

- i. On Site/In Kind: Projects proposing to restore one or more of the specific affected resources listed above within the footprint or immediate vicinity of the impact areas will be given the highest priority for funding.
- ii. In Kind/Offsite: Projects proposing to restore one or more of the affected resources listed above within the greater Massachusetts Bay system, but removed from the impact areas shall be given the second priority for funding.
- iii. On Site/Out of Kind: Projects proposing to restore one or more of the marine resources not on the affected resource list above, but within the footprint or immediate vicinity of the impact areas, shall be given the third priority for funding.
- iv. Off Site/Out of Kind: Projects proposing to restore marine resources not on the affected list above and removed from the project area will receive the lowest priority for funding.

*Marine Fisheries* will review public comments and project ideas to finalize project selection criteria. *Marine Fisheries* will subsequently begin reviewing the suitability of proposed projects against finalized criteria and draft a multi-year work plan.

Comments may be submitted by e-mail ([Bruce.Estrella@state.ma.us](mailto:Bruce.Estrella@state.ma.us)), fax (508.563.5482), or mail (Division of Marine Fisheries, 50A Portside Dr., Pocasset, MA 02559, ATTN: B. Estrella) and will be accepted until 5:00 PM, Friday, November 28, 2003.

For a map of HubLine related activities and further information visit  
[www.hublineupdates.com/webroute.htm](http://www.hublineupdates.com/webroute.htm).